

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 03767 231718Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----105668 231720Z /47

O 231647Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7404
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3767

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK
SUBJEC(: STATUS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN LAGOS

1. MEA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
AMBASSADOR SANU INFORMED DCM THIS MORNING THAT THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS OF TANZANIA, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA HAVE AGREED TO
COME TO LAGOS FOR A MEETING ON RHODESIA ON APRIL 2. HE
SAID THAT THE FMG ALSO EXPECTS SECRETARY VANCE TO ATTEND
BUT IS STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF
MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. THE CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO
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BEGIN AT 8 A.M. AND THE FMG EXPECTS IT TO LAST ONLY
TWO OR THREE HOURS. SANU SAID THAT GENERAL OBASANJO AND
PRESIDENT CARTER MAY BE BRIEFED ON THE RESULTS OF THE
CONFERENCE WHEN THEY RETURN TO STATE HOUSE MARINA AFTER
ATTENDING CHURCH THAT MORNING. IN THAT EVENT THE PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL OBASANJO MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS THE CONFERENCE
AT THE OUTSET OF THEIR BILATERAL TALKS OR EVEN MEET WITH

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS FOR 15 MINUTES.

2. SANU THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD DEAL WITH NAMIBIA AS WELL AS RHODESIA. MEA'S AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR AKADIRI HAD MADE THE SAME PREDICTION TO THE ECM YESTERDAY.

3. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR SANU HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER GARBA REGARDING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, HE SEEMED UNCERTAIN ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE MEETING. HE SAID FIRST THAT THE BRITISH HAD NOT BEEN INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE BUT THEN HE BACKED OFF AND SAID HE DID NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THE BRITISH WOULD BE REPRESENTED. WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF NKOMO AND MUGABE, HE INDICATED THAT, IF THEY COME TO LAGOS BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, THEY WILL BE ASKED WHETHER THEY WISH TO ATTEND.

4. COMMENT: OVERALL IMPRESSION GIVEN BY SANU TODAY, AND BY AKADIRI, YESTERDAY, WAS THAT PLANS FOR THE CONFERENCE ARE STILL RATHER IMPRECISE AND FLUID, BUT THAT THE FMG DEFINITELY EXPECTS IT TO TAKE PLACE.

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